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Five Essential Arts Arguments

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In addition to their intrinsic impacts, the arts produce positive community outcomes across the United States. Here are five timely reasons that public support for the arts is a good deal for citizens and for government.

1. The arts enrich the American economy.

Small businesses, individual entrepreneurs and innovators are the heart and soul of the American economy. Arts and cultural production are growing, providing jobs and tax revenue and generating goods and services that are in demand by the public. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the creative industries [generate \\$729.6 billion in economic activity and account for 4.2% of our nation's gross domestic product](#). The creative sector also offers a competitive advantage to America, generating a trade surplus of more than [\\$24 billion](#). The United States exports more arts and cultural products and services than it imports, and that's positive for job growth and our nation's overall economy.

Learn More

[Fact vs. Fiction: Government Arts Funding](#)

[Why Should Government Support the Arts?](#)

2. The arts offer solutions for rural America.

Many rural communities were slow to rebound (or haven't yet recovered) from the recession. Arts based economic development strategies offer potent, sustainable advantages while preserving the heritage of rural communities. State arts agencies and the National Endowment for the Arts make substantial [investments in rural areas](#), boost the [capacity of rural communities](#) to improve their futures and help rural leaders pioneer the [next generation of rural development solutions](#).

3. The arts offer cost-effective health treatments that work.

Arts-integrated treatments [produce positive clinical outcomes](#) for our active-duty [military and veteran populations](#). Creative therapies help [other patient groups](#), including [older Americans](#), to recover more quickly from procedures, require shorter hospitalizations, take fewer medications and maintain their mental, physical and social well-being.

4. The arts improve education.

Research proves that the arts [raise academic achievement](#) and prevent school dropouts. The arts teach creative thinking, analytical reasoning, effective communication and collaborative work. These competencies pave the way to student success in school, in the workplace and in life.

5. The arts offer a net gain for government.

The arts yield [\\$27.5 billion](#) in revenue to federal, state, county and municipal governments. Public funding for the arts also yields additional financial commitments, [leveraging \\$9](#) in private and earned matching funds for every \$1 invested by the government.

Take Action

Here's how you can deliver this information:

[You Can Shape Policy](#)

[Three Simple Ways to Advocate for the Arts](#)

NASAA is the membership organization serving America's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. We are a national, not-for-profit, nonpartisan association that provides research, advocacy, training and networking for state arts agencies and their constituents. Our work is evidence-driven and grounded in the principles that the arts are essential to a thriving democracy and that the public, private and nonprofit sectors all have vital roles to play in American success. To learn more, visit www.nasaa-arts.org.

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